

# Chief's Report to the Community Advisory Board

*April 24, 2008 to July 31, 2008*

## **Highlights**

**DOCR Annual Awards Program:** The DOCR Recognition Ceremony was held at the Public Safety Training Academy on May 7<sup>th</sup> and the following PRRS staff and partner agencies received awards for their outstanding work in calendar year 2007:

- **PRRS Divisional Employee of the Year:** Correctional Specialist IV Patricia Braun;
- **Outstanding Performance Awards:** Case Manager Nichole Davis, Case Manager Kendra Jochum, Correctional Screener Tina Michaels, and Assessment Manager Teresa Still;
- **Outstanding Performance Certificates:** Case Manager Tyrone Alexander;
- **Special Appreciation Certificates (Non-Departmental):** Peggy Bradley, Carol Buhl, and Dudley Warner (Health and Human Services), William Cimino (Federal Bureau of Prisons);
- **Special Appreciation Plaque (Non-Departmental):** Lt. Henderson and the Fugitive Section (Montgomery County Sheriff's Office);
- **Special Appreciation Certificates - Volunteer:** Julia Albrecht (Archdiocese of Washington Welcome Home Program), Daniel Kimes and Kathleen Nardella (PRRS Graduate Student Interns), Faith Coordinator Mary Mulholland (Archdiocese of Washington Welcome Home Program), Bob Tenney (Archdiocese of Washington Welcome Home Program).

**Selection of PRRS Unit Managers:** Community Release Coordinator Patricia Braun and Work Release Coordinator Chris Johnson were selected by an interview panel as the two new PRRS Unit Managers after undergoing a highly competitive selection process. The four Unit Managers at PRRS are the most senior managers in the division and each oversees a housing unit. Pat Braun brings over 20 years of experience at PRRS including primary counselor (now called case manager), life skills instructor, case worker, screener, community release coordinator, and since February 2008 as the Acting Unit Manager of Unit 2. She has played a leading role in infusing our program with evidenced-based practices and spearheaded the development of Tools for Change along with other staff. Pat has her Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland at Baltimore and is a licensed certified clinical social worker. Chris Johnson joined the DOCR in April 2003 and spent almost four years developing the successful Bakery Job Training Program now as Sweet Release. In February 2007, she joined PRRS as a Work Release Coordinator on Unit 3. She came to the Department after having managed two programs for the D.C. Central Kitchen which was designed to help rehabilitate ex-offenders, the homeless, adults recovering from addictions and emotional disorders, plus other "traditionally unemployable" men and women by getting them back into the workforce. In her career, Chris has had extensive management and supervisory experience at different levels within the food services industry, television production, and human resources. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Old Dominion University.

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**National Association of Counties (July 13<sup>th</sup>):** The Archdiocese of Washington's Welcome Home Program (WHP) and PRRS' Career Resource Center (CRC) received 2008 NACO Achievement awards which are presented to programs either run or supported by government agencies that demonstrate excellence in their operations and have evidence of their success. The WHP, based at the Pre-Release Center, assists persons returning from incarceration by linking them up with mentors who are spiritually strong, value-centered role models. Mentors offer returnees moral support and assistance as they transition back to the community. Since its inception in December of 2006, the Welcome Home Program has achieved remarkable success with some impressive numbers: over 54 committed volunteers have contributed over 1813 hours; over 63 program residents received direct services, and dozens of others have benefited from group computer instruction and supervision in the career resource center; thirteen training programs have served over 85 individuals. PRRS' CRC was implemented 18 months ago and provides internet-based job search assistance to serve soon-to-be released inmates participating in its work release program. The CRC assists them prepare resumes and cover letters, search and apply for jobs, and identify community resources that will assist in their transition. Over 1,000 residents have used the center, and the assistance provided in conjunction with staff support has led most residents to find and secure employment. Also noteworthy is that the center is kept open 25-35 hours a week with no additional permanent staff. Carefully trained volunteers provide most of the supervision in the center with assistance from PRRS employment specialists. Finally, the design and operation of the center has incorporated important safeguards that have resulted in few and minor instances of inappropriate use.

**Programmatic Changes and Updates:**

**State Attorneys Office Protocol:** Over the past month, PRRS has had extensive discussions with the SAO to address their concerns that individuals transferring to PRRS are not serving sufficient time in detention and that certain individuals should be denied transfer outright. PRRS Staff Chief LoBuglio and Assessment Manager Teresa Still have used a series of meetings including a training session for 40-50 SAO staff to explain the comprehensive screening, selection, and transfer process that is followed to ensure that appropriate candidates are selected for our program. Some of the discussions have involved the Chief Administrative judge and the Department has argued that sentencing is the province of judges in the courtroom. It has explained that the DOCR manages the sentence imposed by the judge using professional judgment to determine eligibility for PRRS and then does seek judicial consent for the transfer decision. As a result of the meetings, PRRS provided judges and all criminal justice stakeholders with a one-page laminated "cheat" sheets that provides an estimated timetable of transfers to PRRS based on sentence length, and on the other side, a program description. In addition, PRRS has also redone judicial blanket agreements and has corresponded with all judges in the circuit and district court system. With regard to the SAO, PRRS has developed a protocol whereby the Division solicits information on cases that it plans to transfer and will hold up a transfer for two weeks if the SAO raises an objection during which the Screening section will consider additional case information. Relevant information that could affect PRRS' eligibility consideration relate to judicial intentions at sentencing, concerns about community dangerousness, past history of institutional management problems, and facts about the case that are not in PRRS files. PRRS has not surrendered its ability to the SAO to approve transfers, but has developed a sensible stopgap measure that does allow them the ability to share additional

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information with us. Over time PRRS will phase out this protocol as the SAO and judges fully understand their ability to influence DOCR's management of cases at sentencing.

**PRRS Count:** The count of locally-sentenced offenders at PRRS has fallen by approximately 20 due to some of the changes in practice described above concerning the SAO and the judiciary. However, PRRS continues to make every effort to ensure that its programs are fully utilized and has significantly increased the count of federal inmates who are returning to the Greater Washington DC area.

**Federal Bureau of Prison Monitoring Visit (July 15):** Contract Specialist William Cimino conducted a full monitoring visit of the PRRS, which included meeting with staff, reviewing resident files, reviewing employment records of residents; reviewing accountability procedures, conducting a sanitation inspection in housing unit 2, and reviewing copies of life safety documents, and interviewing federal residents. In a report issued three days later, the FBOP cited one deficiency pertaining to a water leak in the room of one of the federal residents and four lesser concerns. The leak is being addressed and the resident was moved to a different room immediately on the day of the monitoring visit (he had indicated that he had wanted to stay in the room because it was a single room). PRRS will also review the listed concerns to examine whether certain policies and practices need improvement.

**Welcome Home Program:** On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, former WHP Coordinator Mary Mulholland resigned from the Welcome Home program to take a new job that would make full use of her clinical social work skills. Welcome Home has been of tremendous value at PRRS and DOCR, and Mary took the vision of the founders of the program – Father Bryant and Father Kuehner – and made it a programmatic reality. The department recognized Mary's superlative work at the DOCR Annual Awards Program.

**"Respect Opens Doors:"** Acting Unit Manager Stephanie Hall has led a committee of PRRS staff to undertake an initiative to promote respect among staff and residents at PRRS and an increased skill at de-escalating incidents. One subcommittee led by Screener Tina Michaels and Case Manager Kendra Jochum has worked extensively with the County's Office of Human Resources to develop a de-escalation training curriculum. The second subcommittee led by Work Release Coordinator Chris Johnson has focused on developing a marketing campaign. The initiative is scheduled to formally roll-out at the end of August.

**Spanish AA and Sponsor Group Meetings at PRC:** Starting May 15<sup>th</sup>, PRRS began holding two Spanish Speaking AA meetings. These meeting are held on Thursday and Saturday nights. Thursday's format will be open step study/traditions and Saturday's will be open discussion.

**GED Classes:** Congratulations for five Pre-Release Center residents who earned their GED's and two residents who earned their high school diploma.

**New Work Release Brochure:** The Work Release Co-Coordination, Angela Talley, Debbie Lyons-Prince, Hillel Raskas and Chris Johnson, in conjunction with Unit Manager Pat Braun, have written and designed a new work release brochure. It will be used by residents when they go on job interviews to help explain the benefits of hiring a PRC resident, and by staff to

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distribute at community events. The brochure will replace an older version with updated information and a more contemporary look. It is now in the process of final revisions.

**Drug Court:** For the past year, Community Release Coordinator Debbie Lyons-Prince has been the PRRS liaison with Drug Court Staff. Drug court represents the combined efforts of justice and treatment professionals to actively intervene and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. The liaison is responsible keeping lines of communication open and establishing and maintaining mutual understanding and cooperation between the two programs for the benefit of our mutual clients. To accomplish this Debbie attends a weekly meeting with Drug Court administrators, managers, therapists and case managers to review the progress and coordinate service delivery to Drug Court participant's under the supervision of PRRS.

**Winning Fathers' Program:** PRRS has partnered with the County's Health and Human Services Department to offer a program that aims to strengthen families and promote responsible fatherhood. HHS' Ed Powell leads the effort at PRRS and has developed two concurrent programs: a parenting curriculum for residents, and a more comprehensive "couples" program called "Exploring Relationships and Marriage with Fragile Families."

**Case Managers' Roundtable:** Due to vacations, the Case Managers have not been meeting on a regular basis the last few months. The last couple of meetings involved a sex therapist discussing sexual trauma and crisis intervention and two meetings with Ed Powell of HHS discussing the Winning Fathers' Program and healthy relationships.

**Family Justice:** Family Justice of NYC submitted a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance in partnership with PRRS to develop a technical assistance plan that would allow PRRS to strengthen the family reentry component of the program.

## **Personnel**

**Resident Supervisors:** PRRS welcomes two new staff members:

- **Ivain Ngue** started as a Public Administrative Intern (Underfill for a Resident Supervisor) on June 9, 2008. Ivain completed his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2007 and served in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2004. He started at the Pre-Release Center in January 2008 as an Intern.
- **Richard Austin** was promoted from a Correctional Dietary Officer (CDO) to a Resident Supervisor and began working in Unit IV on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Richard joined the Department in April 2007 and has vast experience in overseeing correctional food services including at state penitentiaries;
- On August 6, PRRS will launch a national recruitment search to fill its remaining two vacancies.

## **Staff Achievements:**

- Resident Supervisor **Wendy Qassis** received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland in December 2007. She is currently taking a seventeen week course in Arabic at the Berlitz Language School;

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- Case Manager **Sylvia Hernandez** is working on her Master's Degree at the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, and will graduate in December 2008;
- Home Confinement Monitor **Paola Zapata** is a full-time student working on her Bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland, Collage Park Campus. She expects to graduate May 2009.
- Work Release Coordinator **Hillel Raskas** completed the certification process to be designated as a Global Career Development Facilitator through the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. This designation recognizes training and competency in a series of career development components.
- Unit Manager **Jim Shannon** has been named Chairman of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, for the School of Social Work Advisory committee. Jim's term as chairman for this Advisory committee is for two years and he was appointed in May 2008.

**Allegations of Staff Misconduct:** On April 29, a program participant alleged that he was sexually assaulted by a staff member. To protect both the alleged victim and the staff member, the Department immediately requested a formal police investigation and placed the staff member on administrative leave. The investigation led to the charging of the staff member for sexual conduct with an inmate which is a misdemeanor offense which could result in an imprisonment of three years. The case will come to trial this fall. The DOCR maintains a vigilant zero tolerance with regard to sexual misconduct in all of its facilities.

### **Facilities**

**Key Locking System:** PRRS staff discovered that certain keys issued to program participants opened multiple doors, and this triggered an in depth investigation by the lock manufacturer and installer who found a design defect. The system has a lifetime warranty, and PRRS is in discussions with the lock installer about implementing the replacement of all of the locks in the facility.

**HVAC/Maintenance:** The County's DPWT have worked diligently to address the failures of multiple HVAC units which date from the buildings construction in 1978. In addition, DPWT continues to respond timely to work orders to keep the Pre-Release Center in excellent condition.

### **PRRS Event/Activity Chronology**

- **Maryland Public Safety Secretary Gary Visit (April 25<sup>th</sup>):** Secretary Maynard and several of his staff members visited MCCF and PRRS and met with senior staff to discuss collaborations between the county and state correctional systems.
- **National Law Enforcement Week (May 3<sup>rd</sup>):** DOCR staff participated in the annual wreath laying ceremony and Honor Guard Competition at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial located on Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. The program was moderated by DOCR Director Wallenstein.
- **Congressional Forum on The Impact of Reentry from Local Jails (May 7<sup>th</sup>):** The Urban Institute and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice held an event at the Library of Congress to announce the release of some new resources that are available to jail professionals. DOCR Director Wallenstein was among several prominent practitioners and

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political leaders to describe the importance of focusing on the role that jails can play as community institutions to better prepare released inmates. Several PRRS and MCCF staff attended.

- **Silver Spring Regional Center (May 15):** Division Chief Stefan LoBuglio was invited and participated in a meeting to describe the County's reentry efforts to prepare individuals in their transition from confinement to the community.
- **CSOS Reentry Sanction Center (May 23):** PRRS staff visited the new 100-bed center in DC that provides a 28-day intensive treatment program for individuals returning from federal and local confinement and returning to the District of Columbia. The visit was facilitated by former Community Advisory Board member Norma (Jennings) Edwards.
- **The Maryland Apprenticeship Seminar (May 30<sup>th</sup>):** Community Release Coordinator Debra Lyons-Prince and Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas attended this seminar at the National Labor College hosted by the State of Maryland Division of Labor and Licensing. The speakers include Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, other state officials, and leaders of several major trade and construction unions.
- **DOCR Victim's Work Group Meeting (June 5):** DOCR staff convened a meeting of the standing departmental committee from the two detention facilities and PRRS that is charged with reviewing its policies and practices with respect to victim notification and services to ensure compliance with relevant statutes and to examine ways to improve services to victims.
- **VA Senator Webb Hearing on Drug Policy (June 19):** PRRS staff attended a Joint Economic Hearing held by the Senator to examine the economic consequences of the United States' drug policy.
- **Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (June 9,10):** MASCA held its Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland June 8 – 11, 2008. The theme of this year's conference is "The Road to Reentry and Reunification". Chief Lobuglio was one of the workshops presenters on the subject.
- **Grand Jury Visit (June 17<sup>th</sup>):** Twenty-three members of the Grand Jury visited the MCCF and the Pre-Release Center on June 17<sup>th</sup>. These visits are a statutory requirement that provides the Grand Jury with the opportunity to inspect DOCR facilities, interview inmates/residents, and report on their observations.
- **National Community Corrections Committee (June 20):** PRRS staff attended the bi-monthly meeting of this committee and heard a presentation from the Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse ("NIDA") and received an update on recent scientific findings concerning addiction and implications for public policy and correctional management.
- **White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Conference (June 26<sup>th</sup>):** Work Release Coordinator Hillel Raskas attended the opening meeting of this conference where several members of the President's Cabinet including the Secretary of Labor and the Attorney General discussed the Prisoner Reentry Initiative.
- **Sex Offenders Registration Meeting (July 9<sup>th</sup>):** DOCR and the Montgomery County Police met to review policies and procedures regarding the registration of sex offenders in DOCR custody prior to their release. All PRRS clients who are required to register with the Sexual Offense Registry are brought by Resident Supervisor Andre Stepp to the Rockville Police station to register soon after their arrival into the program.

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- **DC Unity Reentry Health Center (July 10<sup>th</sup>):** PRRS staff attended an open house of a new health clinic that serves returning inmates to the District of Columbia. Located in South East D.C., the clinic is run by the largest community medical provider in the city which also provides health care to inmates in the DC jail system. Unity and the DC Department of Correction received a prestigious award from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in 2008.
- **University of Maryland (Baltimore Campus at Shady Grove (July 10<sup>th</sup>):** Correctional Screener Tina Michaels and Unit Manager Jim Shannon were invited to be part of a panel for an orientation for new Social Work field supervisors. Tina's insights as a coordinator of interns of multiple disciplines (versus social work only) were invaluable and well received by the participants.
- **National Consultants (July 16):** Representatives of a national correctional consulting company – Carter Goble Lee – visited MCCF and PRRS. They represent clients in different parts of the country, and will arrange a visit of a group of correctional officials from Spokane Washington to Montgomery County in the fall.
- **Parole and Probation Visit (July 16<sup>th</sup>):** 15-20 agents from the three P&P office in Montgomery county visited the Pre-Release Center for a tour and discussion. The meeting was arranged and facilitated by Screener Scott Gunnison and Assessment and Classification Manager Teresa Still. Case Manager Dan Keener assisted in providing the meeting participants with a review of programs at PRRS. The goal of the meeting was to strengthen information sharing and collaboration between the two agencies.
- **BI Training (July 16):** PRRS' vendor of electronic monitoring equipment provided training to staff. Over the past year, PRRS has increasingly relied on GPS technology to track clients both in home confinement and those live at the PRRS.
- **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Meeting (July 21):** Case Manager Kendra Jochum and Unit Manager Stephanie Hall hosted a meeting of the Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition to revisit how the partnership between PRRS and SSIHC can continue to provide housing support to female residents with children in PRRS. The new Executive Director, Ashley McSwan, attended and toured PRRS.
- **Children of the Incarcerated (July 24):** PRRS hosted a meeting of individuals interested in addressing the needs of the children of the incarcerated. In attendance were HHS David Jones, PRRS staff, consultant Dr. Craig Uchida, CAB Board Member Eric Brenner, and children's book authors Sue Jeweler and Judi Goozh ("Mommies and Daddies in Prison) who are also award winning teachers now retired from the Montgomery County Public School system. The meeting discussed piloting program and initiatives at PRRS to encourage residents to seek our resources in the community that might assist their children cope with the incarceration of their parents.
- **Virginia Governor's Workforce Development Office Visitors (July 28<sup>th</sup>):** Visitors from the Virginia governor's Workforce Development Office toured MCCF and the Pre-Release Center. The group consisted of seven staff members. Unit Manager Jim Shannon gave them a tour of the facility and the PRC Work Release Coordinators Angela Talley, Chris Johnson, and Hillel Raskas spoke with the group as they were interested in how we handle offender employment with a particular focus on internet connectivity.

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- **Recidivism Study (July 29):** Assessment and Classification Manager Teresa Still and Stefan LoBuglio met with consultant Dr. Craig Uchida who is the President of the Justice Strategy Solutions. JSS was awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention to conduct a recidivism study in Montgomery County. Dr. Uchida provided an update on the study, and arranged a follow-up meeting on August 19.
- **Management Development Program Visit (July 30):** PRRS hosted a visit of 24 members of the County's Management Development Program and provide a program overview and tour. Unit Manager Stephanie Hall, Case Manager Sylvia Hernandez, and Resident Supervisor Andrew Raptakis assisted with the visit.

### **Security/Safety**

**Critical Incidents:** On June 11<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup> two incidents occurred at the Pre-Release Center. Each incident occurred at the Center and required PRRS staff to contact outside authorities for assistance. Both of these incidents meet "critical incident" as defined by PRRS Policy and Procedure 2000-7, Fire and Emergency Procedures, dated December 21, 2007. The first incident involved the escape of resident Joseph Randolph who fled the center after learning that he was being suspended from the program. He was apprehended by the Sheriff's Department on July 8. The second incident was an altercation between two visitors, and police responded to the call for assistance. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Debriefing Meeting for staff was led by Acting Unit Manager Patricia Braun, and staff discussed the incidents in great detail, and in doing so, reviewed the Department's policies and procedures. Several suggestions were made to improve staff response for future incidents and to develop new policies and procedures.

### **Escapes/Court Dispositions**

**Fugitives at large:** None

**Escapes in CY 2008:** Three

#### **Escape Dispositions- Pending Cases:**

- **Lisa Lawrence**, who escaped from the Pre-Release Center on February 13<sup>th</sup>, has pled guilty to escape and will have a sentencing hearing on August 6.
- **Joe Randolph** escaped from the Pre-Release Center on June 11<sup>th</sup> and was apprehended July 8<sup>th</sup>. He is fighting extradition to Montgomery County.

#### **Recently Sentenced Escape Cases:**

- **James McNair** was convicted of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Felonious Escape in a jury trial overseen by Judge Ronald B. Rubin and now faces a sentence of five to ten years in the State Division of Correction. He had refused a plea agreement to have an 18 month cap on his sentence.
- **Eric Irving** was sentenced on July 24th to eighteen months with eight and a half years back up time for Escape by the Honorable David A. Boynton. Mr. Irving is a career criminal who has been arrested over fifty times since the early 1990's.
- **Horatio Silva** escaped from the Pre-Release Center on October 27, 2007. He was apprehended on December 14, 2007 in Prince George's County where he faced charges for Burglary and Destruction of Property. These charges were dropped and Mr. Silva was extradited to Montgomery County. On July 25, 2008, Mr. Silva was sentenced by the



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Honorable Eric M. Johnson to ten years, suspend all but four years, to be served in the Maryland Department of Correction. Judge Johnson also sentenced Mr. Silva to an additional eleven months for Violation or Probation to be served consecutive with the Escape sentence. Mr. Silver will do approximately five years for his escape for PRC with an additional six years back up time.